00590

1962/02/20

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

February 20, 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

You have asked for information on casualties, U. S. and foreign, in Laos and South Vietnam. Mr. Koren, of the State Department, has provided the following information.

LAOS. According to the Royal Lao Government, 71 men have been killed in action and 182 have been wounded, from January 1, 1962, to date. Of this number, 29 were killed and 51 wounded in the Nam Beng-Nam Tha battle.

The Royal Lao Government has taken ~~has taken~~ 6 Viet Minh prisoners since January 1961.

Since the beginning of U. S. operations in Laos, 5 U. S. prisoners (both civilian and military) have been taken (4 of these have actually been interviewed and one is reliably reported to have been taken). 11 U. S. citizens are missing in action. 5 or 6 of these casualties are attributable to the shooting down of our aircraft in Laos.

VIETNAM. The following table shows U. S. casualties in Vietnam from 1955 to February 17, 1962:

Table of U. S. Casualties and Accidental Deaths in Vietnam (since 1955)

Total	39 (18 dead, 20 wounded, 1 missing)
Accidental deaths	13 (all military)
Killed by Viet Cong	5 (1 civilian, 4 military)
Accidentally wounded	8 (2 civilian, 6 military)
Wounded by Viet Cong	12 (2 civilian, 10 military)
Missing	1 (military)

Losses due to the shooting down of aircraft accounted for approximately 11 of the above casualties.

DECLASSIFIED
U.S. ARCHIVIST (NLK-81-156)
By NARS, Date 12/15/83

MVF

Michael V. Forrestal